

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 NASA-04 SCI-06

NEA-14 AF-10 /169 W

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R 251821Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0308

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: TWENTIETH SESSION (FIRST PART) OF THE ASSEMBLY

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OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (WEU): SUMMARY AND INDEX

REFS: (A) PARIS 15216; (B) PARIS 15218; (C) PARIS 15219

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE PARIS SESSION OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION ASSEMBLY WAS MARKED BY A RATHER MUTED DEBATE ON TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION. THE FRENCH CHOSE NOT TO RESURRECT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT'S IDEA OF MAKING THE WEU THE FOCAL POINT OF DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROBLEMS. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED CONCERN ON THE PART OF WEU PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR HARMONIOUS TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION ASSEMBLY MET IN PARIS JUNE 18-20, 1974. FRENCH DELEGATE EDMOND NESSLER (UDR DEPUTY) WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY SUCCEEDING SIR JOHN PEEL, WHO HAD LOST HIS PARLIAMENTARY SEAT IN THE LAST UK ELECTIONS. (NESSLER, HOWEVER, WAS ONLY NARROWLY CHOSEN BY HIS DIVIDED DELEGATION TO BE THE FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE), JULIAN CRITCHLEY (UK, CONSERVATIVE) WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE IMPORTANT COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE QUESTIONS AND ARMAMENTS.

3. DEBATE CENTERED, AS IN LAST YEAR'S SESSION, ON TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE. BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROY HATTERSLEY OPENED THE SESSION WITH A STRONG ENDORSEMENT FOR NATO'S EUROGROUP AS THE BEST AVAILABLE MEANS BY WHICH TO IMPROVE EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. CRITCHLEY'S REPORT ON "CONSULTATIONS AND DECISIONS IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE" (REPORTED REFS A AND B) CALLED FOR CLOSER CONSULTATIVE TIES BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, MORE FREQUENT NATO SUMMITS, AND A US PRESENCE DURING APPROPRIATE MEETINGS OF THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS WHEN POLICY ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN IS IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATION. THE CRITCHLEY RECOMMENDATIONS WERE LATER WATERED DOWN BY AMENDMENT. THE ASSEMBLY APPROVED FRG'S HELLMUT SIEGLERSCHMIDT'S (SPD) REPORT ON "OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES," WHICH CALLED ON THE WEU COUNCIL TO CONSIDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS ONE OF ITS MAIN DUTIES UNDER THE BRUSSELS TREATY THE PROBLEMS FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY RAISED BY EUROPEAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION (REFTEL B). A THIRD REPORT BY LOUIS JUNG (FRENCH UCDP SENATOR) ON "SECURITY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN," WHICH RECOMMENDED A STRONG NATO PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THAT FRANCE RESUME ITS COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN, SURVIVED FRENCH CRITICISM INTACT (REFTEL C). FINALLY, THE

ASSEMBLY APPROVED A SLIGHTLY AMENDED VERSION OF HERBERT LEYNEN'S (BELGIUM - SOCIAL CHRISTIAN) REPORT ON "OBSTACLES TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNION" RECOMMENDING CREATION OF A EUROPEAN POLITICAL DECISION-TAKING CENTER WITH FOREIGN POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ATTENDANCE BY THE WEU SECRETARY GENERAL AT ALL POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS IN THE EC-9 OR NATO.

4. THIS YEAR'S ASSEMBLY FEATURED A HIGH DEGREE OF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION. CONGRESSMAN DONALD RIEGLE (D - MICHIGAN) ATTENDED THE SESSION AS AN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY OBSERVER AND DELIVERED A SHORT SPEECH ON THE CONCERNS OF HIS CONSTITUENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON CONGRESSIONAL THINKING ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY. NASA ADMINISTRATOR JAMES C. FLETCHER GAVE A WELL-RECEIVED

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SCI-06 AF-10 /169 W

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EXPLANATION OF NASA GOALS AND ORGANIZATION. A CANADIAN
PARLIAMENTARY OBSERVER LATER TOLD US THAT FLETCHER'S
SPEECH WAS THE OUTSTANDING SINGLE ADDRESS OF THE
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SESSION.

5. COMMENT. THE SOPHISTICATED APPRECIATION OF US
VIEWS ON TRANSATLANTIC CONSULTATION, FOUND IN CRITCH-
LEY'S AND SIEGLERSCHMIDT'S REPORTS REFLECTED THE
VALUABLE BRIEFINGS ACCORDED BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO
THE WEU GENERAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEES DURING
THEIR MARCH 1974 VISITS TO THE US. UPSTAGED BY THE
OTTAWA CONFERENCE OF NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS, THE WEU
ASSEMBLY SESSION LACKED THE STARS AND THE PYROTECHNICS
OF LAST NOVEMBER'S SESSION, WHICH CONVENED JUST AFTER
THE OCTOBER MIDDLE EAST WAR AND WHICH FEATURED A WIDELY-
PUBLICIZED CLASH BETWEEN FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT
AND FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER (SEE PARIS 30340 AND
30341 OF 1973). THIS YEAR'S SESSION WAS PLAYED IN A
LOWER KEY, AND FRENCH NEWSPAPERS GAVE IT RELATIVELY
LITTLE ATTENTION. AT NO TIME DID THE FRENCH TRY TO
REVIVE JOBERT'S STILLBORN IDEA THAT THE WEU MIGHT
BECOME THE FOCAL POINT FOR "DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION"
REGARDING EUROPE'S DEFENSE. THE JUNG REPORT ON
MEDITERRANEAN DEFENSE AND THE CRITCHLEY REPORT ON
EUROPEAN-AMERICAN CONSULTATIONS SUGGEST THAT THE WEU
PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE BECOME MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE TIES
WHICH BIND TOGETHER EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS15525
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740167-0139
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740616/aaaaancq.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) PARIS 15216; (B) PARIS 15218; (C,) PARIS 15219
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <09 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWENTIETH SESSION (FIRST PART) OF THE ASSEMBLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, WEU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005